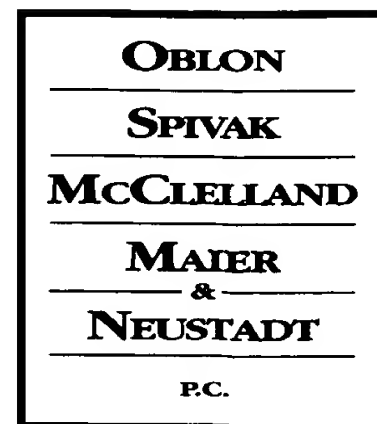




Docket No.: 211714US0X

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313



RE: Application Serial No.: 09/919,891
Applicants: Brigitte BATHE, et al.
Filing Date: August 2, 2001
For: NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCE WHICH CODE FOR THE
METH GENE
Group Art Unit: 1652
Examiner: Fronda

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

Response to Restriction Requirement

Our check in the amount of \$0.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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DOCKET NO.: 211714US0X

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Brigitte BATHE ET AL

:

: GROUP ART UNIT: 1652

SERIAL NO.: 09/919,891

:

FILED: AUGUST 2, 2001

: EXAMINER: FRONDA

FOR: NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCE WHICH CODE FOR THE meth GENE

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

Responsive to the Official Action dated January 29, 2004, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I, Claims 1-6, 8, and 9, for further prosecution. It is Applicants understanding that the Restriction Requirement issued January 29, 2004 replaces that which was issued on February 7, 2002.

REMARKS

The Office has required restriction in the present application as follows:

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Group I: | Claims 1-6, 8, and 9, drawn to an isolated polynucleotide coding for the methH gene, a vector, an Escherichia coli strain, and a coryneform bacteria strain; |
| Group II: | Claim 7, drawn to a coryneform bacteria in which the methH gene is enhanced; |
| Group III: | Claims 10-19, drawn to a method for the fermentative production of L-amino acids in coryneform bacteria comprising fermenting in a medium coryneform bacteria which at least the methH gene is enhanced; |
| Group IV: | Claims 20-31, drawn to drawn to a process for preparing an L-methionine-containing animal feedstuffs additive; |